

A.J. Tait – November Volunteer of the Month



Thank you A.J. Tait for your dedicated service to the City of Columbia. Your hard work and volunteer hours are much appreciated.

A.J. has been volunteering as a coach with the Columbia Parks and Recreation Special Olympics for about nine months. According to A.J., serving people living with disabilities is a calling close to her heart. "I've had ADHD all my life and have a natural connection with the disabled community. Volunteering is fun to do and a great way to stay active."

A.J. recalls one memorable experience when volunteering as being a moment near the end of a softball game.

"It was the bottom of the last inning, and one of the teams needed just one more catch to seal the game. They did. The ball was hit and caught. Everyone went wild, the whole team celebrated."

A.J. loves seeing the athletes succeed and enjoys "seeing the sparkle in their eyes when they make a great play."

Other activities A.J. enjoys include roller skating and playing alto saxophone. She was a member of Marching Mizzou for four years and describes herself as outgoing and friendly.

"Any act of service you do can be fun if you make it fun," AJ said. "You can get as much out of it as the population you're volunteering for."

Thank you A.J.! To learn more about volunteering with the City of Columbia, visit CoMo.gov.

Operation Clean Neighborhoods

The City's eleventh Operation Clean Neighborhoods event took place Friday, Sept. 23. Approximately 100 City staff members volunteered their morning to help clean Douglass Park and the surrounding neighborhood.

During the project, staff worked along streets and sidewalks to remove vegetation, dirt and debris; trimmed the park walkways; painted park shelters; and picked up litter. Waste tires were picked up from residences. The week of the project, two dumpsters were provided for neighbors to dispose of large items.

Operation Clean Neighborhoods is a tangible way for City staff to support Columbia neighborhoods and provides staff an opportunity to connect with one another. Many staff had a change from their normal work day and got a firsthand experience of the work of our parks and streets staff.

City staff who participate in the project enjoy seeing the value in their work. Stay tuned about plans for an Operation Clean Neighborhoods in 2023!



Approximately 100 City staff members participated in this year's Operation Clean Neighborhoods.



OUR VISION

Columbia is the best place for everyone to live, work, learn and play.

OUR MISSION

To serve the public equitably through democratic, transparent and efficient government.

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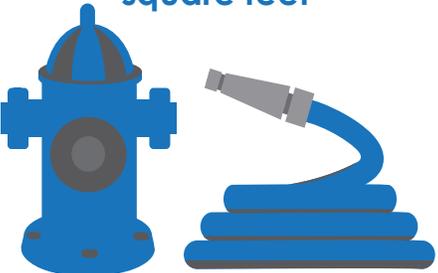


— City Stats —

Fire Station 11

Project Info

10,084
square feet



12
additional
firefighters
will be
hired to
staff the
station



3 Vehicle bays



Breaking ground on Fire Station 11



Columbia Mayor Barbara Buffaloe speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony.

City officials and members of the public gathered at the construction site of Fire Station No. 11 for a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday, Sept 27.

Acting Fire Chief Clayton Farr Jr., City Council Member Matt Pitzer and Columbia Mayor Barbara Buffaloe spoke at the event and also participated in the ceremonial shovel line.

Fire stations are unique projects," Mayor Buffaloe said. "They house the fire trucks and equipment, but it's also a home to the women and men who serve in the Columbia Fire Department."

Construction of the fire station is being funded by the 2015 ¼ cent capital improvement sales tax. The project is currently underway, as workers are placing the building's foundation and installing underground plumbing.

Fire Station No. 11, which is being built at 6909 Scott Blvd., will handle emergencies currently responded to by crews from Fire Station No. 6 and Fire Station No. 7. This will allow fire, rescue, hazardous materials and emergency medical services to be delivered to many more of our citizen customers within our target goal of four minutes.

The fire station will cost an anticipated \$4.9 million. It will have energy-efficient equipment such as ground-source heating and cooling, along with roof-mounted solar panels for sustainable design building features.



City officials and other stakeholders take part in a ceremonial shovel line.

The project is expected to be complete by late summer 2023.

JOIN OUR TEAM! | GoCoMoJobs.com 

Information on boil advisories and boil orders

City of Columbia Water & Light's water distribution system is an interconnected network of about 3.5 million feet of pipes. Large water mains feed smaller distribution lines that lead to our customers' homes and businesses.

Though Water & Light has an ongoing maintenance plan and strives to provide reliable service, there are factors that can affect the system that are beyond the utility's control. High moisture content in the soil, drastic temperature changes or even the age of the pipes can cause water mains to break.

When a main break causes the water pressure to drop, Water & Light issues a precautionary boil advisory. Why do we ask you to boil your water in these situations? A pressure drop could cause a backflow situation, which could contaminate the distribution system.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) recommends that anytime the pressure in the distribution system drops below 20 pounds per square inch (psi), the utility must notify affected customers issue a boil water advisory until further notice.

If the distribution system drops below 20 psi, affected customers will receive a blue hang tag on their door. The City of Columbia has not had a boil order in more than 25 years.

Boil advisories are generally a precautionary step. Boil advisories remain in place while Water & Light awaits the results of samples collected for bacteriological analysis. MDNR only issues a boil order if there is a known problem within the water supply.

Water & Light uses Rave Mobile Safety Alerts for direct notification to customers who sign up for the service. Customers can choose to receive alerts via text message, email and/or phone call.

What to do during a boil advisory/order:

- 1.) Boil water for three minutes prior to using it for cooking or drinking.
- 2.) Do not consume ice from an automatic ice maker.
- 3.) Wash dishes and food contact surfaces by immersing for one minute in clean tap water that contains one teaspoon of unscented bleach per gallon of water.



During a boil advisory, make sure to rinse dishes using one teaspoon of unscented bleach per gallon of water.

Holiday recycling tips

In order to make this holiday season the most wonderful time of the year, we would like to offer our customers some tips for proper festive waste disposal:

- Wrapping paper is not recyclable unless the packaging clearly says that it is. There are a few companies that make wrapping paper entirely of paper. Those products can be recycled as mixed fiber.
- We mainly encourage the reuse of wrapping paper when possible. You can also put presents in reusable decorative cardboard or tin gift boxes. Ribbons and bows also can be reused instead of being thrown away.
- Items such as string lights, ribbons and tinsel are not recyclable. They can actually cause problems with the equipment at our facility. Holiday lights are recyclable at Mid-MO Recycling, Lowe's, Home Depot and Ace Hardware.
- Remember that aluminum products such as foil, baking dishes and pie plates and paper products like plates, cups and napkins cannot be recycled at our facilities.
- Pouring grease and cooking oils down the drain can lead to blocked pipes and/or cause blockages in our sewer systems. Please let grease cool in a disposable container and throw it in the garbage.
- Between Dec. 26 and Jan. 31, live Christmas trees, stripped of decoration, can be set curbside for collection on your normally scheduled pickup day. During this period, the tree will not count as a bulky item.

The COMO Recycle and Trash app will give you updates on how the holidays affect your curbside collection schedule around the holidays. It is free to download on Android and Apple devices is available on the Solid Waste page on CoMo.gov.

Support City programs

Looking for a way to support your community this holiday season?

Consider making a tax-deductible donation to a City of Columbia program.

Through this initiative, you get to choose which program receives your donation. Eligible programs include utility assistance, community beautification, youth recreation scholarships and more.

If you're interested in donating, the City provides two options. You can complete and return the City of Columbia Donation Form included in the envelope with your utility bill, or you can make a donation online using the City's secure online form at CoMo.gov/donations.

If you have questions about donating to the City of Columbia, please call 573.874.CITY (2489).

This is a great opportunity to make positive impact on our community and to help those who are less fortunate. Find the program that matters most to you and make a donation today!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Tiffany Heibel



In 2005, Tiffany began working for the City as a part-time parking meter attendant.

Seventeen years later, she is still with the City – now as a full-time parking meter repair technician.

Her responsibilities include fixing, installing, and removing parking meters, as well as collecting, counting and depositing meter money.

Tiffany likes working for the City because of the benefits, specifically its retirement plan.

“The City offers great benefits,” Tiffany said. “I’ll be able to retire by the time I’m 51 if I choose.”

Parks and Recreation events

For more information, please visit CoMo.gov/ParksandRec or call 573.874.7460. You may also visit the Parks and Recreation Facebook page at Facebook.com/ParksandRec.

December 2022

9 Lights and Sights Tour, Meet at the ARC, 6:15-7:30 p.m. or 7:45-9 p.m., \$7.50 per person, must pre-register

10 City Kwanzaa Celebration and Black-Owned Business Expo, Armory Sports Center, 2-5 p.m., Free

13 Central Columbia Holiday Party, Armory Sports Center, 6:30-8 p.m., Free

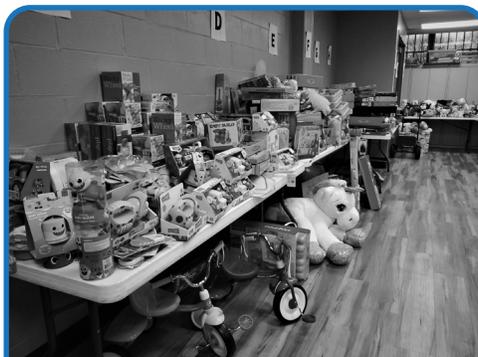
Toys for Columbia's Youth

Columbia Parks and Recreation is organizing the annual Toys for Columbia's Youth Drive. Families interested in applying for the program may do so by Monday, Dec. 5. The toy drive serves children ages 12 and under.

To be eligible, families must be Columbia residents, meet income requirements and not be receiving toy assistance from another agency. Donations of new toys and money will be accepted through Dec. 5.

Toys can be dropped off at the Armory Sports Center, 701 E. Ash St., the Activity & Recreation Center (ARC), 1701 W. Ash, or the Parks and Recreation office, 1 S. Seventh St.

Cash, checks or credit cards are also accepted. A letter of receipt for tax purposes will be provided for your generosity. Please call 573.874.7460 for more information.



Donations of new toys and money will be accepted through Dec. 5.

Board and commission vacancies

Boards and commissions are a way for residents to be involved in local government and to represent the voices of their fellow community members. The City is accepting applications for the following boards, commissions or task forces:

- Columbia Sports Commission
- Finance Advisory and Audit Committee
- Firefighters' Retirement Board
- Human Services Commission
- Police Retirement Board

Application deadline is Friday, Dec. 9, at 5 p.m. Applications and information about current vacancies are available online at CoMo.gov. Call 573.874.7208 for more information.

Tips to prevent vehicle theft

Like most of Missouri, Columbia has seen an increase in incidents of car break-ins and car thefts over the last year. Motor vehicles are primary transportation for many of us. We drive to work, to shop, to doctor's appointments and to get our kids to school activities.

Twenty-one vehicle thefts occurred in Columbia between Aug. 16 - Sept. 16. In more than half those cases, keys were readily accessible to criminals. Each day, Columbia Police work to recover stolen vehicles and valuables. You can take steps to help prevent these crimes of opportunity:

- Shut your car off when it's unattended, and take your keys with you.
- Always lock your car doors and ensure the windows are closed.
- Don't leave a spare key in your vehicle.
- Stow or remove valuables from your car.
- If it's not automatic, activate your car alarm.
- Park in well-lit spaces and avoid isolated spots.

If you have been a victim of a car theft or break-in, call 311 to make a report, or report online by visiting CoMo.gov and searching "Crime Reporting." Thanks for your willingness to take steps to help keep Columbia a safe community.